

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10 and 13 were rejected. Claims 11-12 were previously cancelled. By entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9 are amended, claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 14-26 have been added. Consequently, claims 1-10 and 14-26 remain pending.

A replacement Abstract has been submitted. The Abstract includes a correction in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Claims 4 and 13 are objected to because of various informalities. The undersigned believes the informality identified by the Examiner in regard to claim 4, line 9. i.e., "position," was corrected in the Amendment submitted in response to the first non-final Office Action. If this is not correct, the Examiner is invited to make such correction by Examiner's amendment. Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Consequently, withdraw of these objections is respectfully requested.

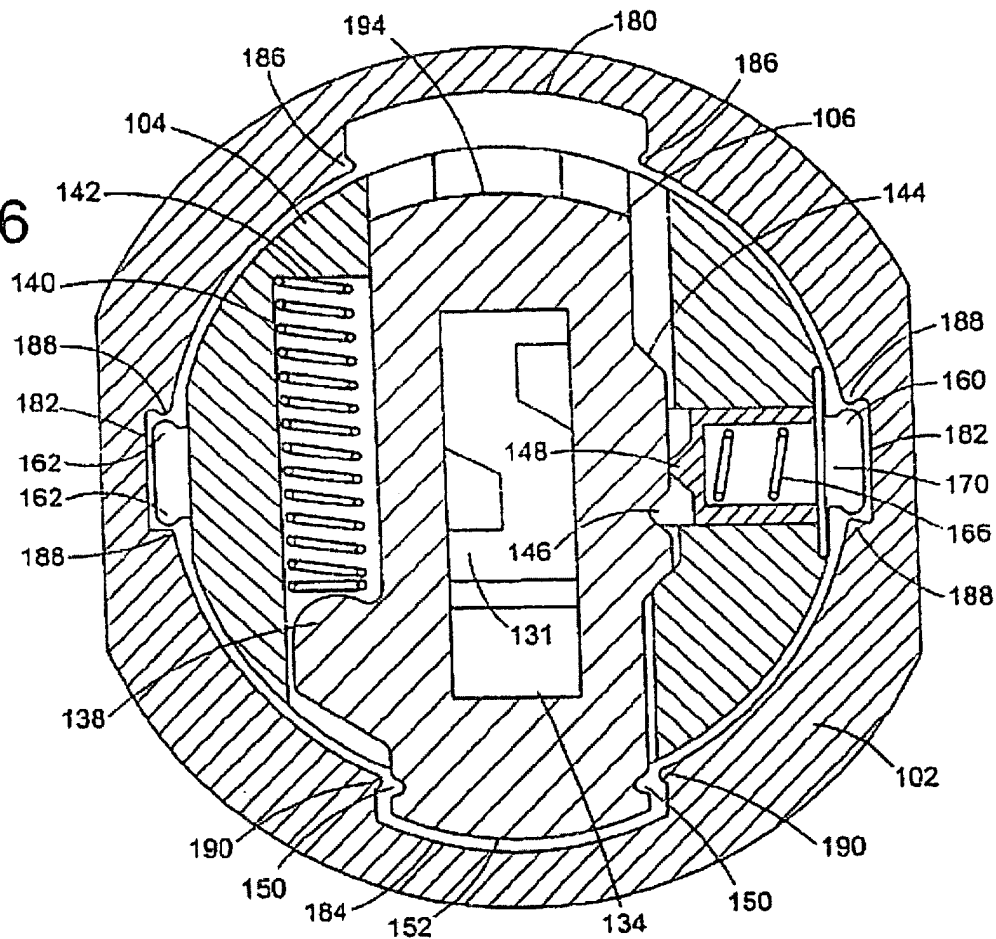
Independent claims 1, 4 and 9 have been amended to better define the invention and are believed to be allowable. Claim 1 recites a locking mechanism wherein:

"one or more sidebar members engages a projection disposed at a mouth of said at least one sidewall cavity when in said first position and disengages from said projection when in said second position, wherein engagement between said one or more sidebar members and said projection in said first position prevents said removable lock cylinder from being removed from said cylinder cavity by prohibiting rotation of said lock cylinder." (emphasis added)

Figure 6 of the present application illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the invention claimed in claim 1.



FIG. 6



The lock has a wafer-tumbler construction with two sidebars spring-biased toward the axis of rotation of the lock cylinder. The lock is designed to add a level of security against picking. The lock shell 102 includes four sidewall cavities, a top cavity 180 and a bottom cavity 184 aligned for mating with tumblers, and two side cavities 182 arranged for mating with sidebars 160, 162. The side cavities include two projections 188 at the mouth of the cavities 182. As illustrated in a locked position, the sidebars 160, 162 are in a position of rotational interference with the lock shell 102. If rotational torque is place on the lock cylinder in the absence of a proper key inserted into the key slot, the tumblers will force the sidebar toward the cavity, and combined with the rounded outer edge surface of the sidebar, lock the sidebars into a

position of interference with the shell 102. (See para. 0028).

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasper. The lock designs shown in Kasper do not teach, disclose, or suggest the use of a sidebar or any structure including a sidebar. Rather, the Examiner has relied upon the teachings of Oliver in regard to a lock having sidebar construction.

Oliver teaches a pin-tumbler lock style with a single sidebar 38. The sidebar is biased toward the outer shell by springs (not shown). The lock shell inner wall includes an open mouth cavity 36 with no projections. Oliver does not teach, disclose or suggest a locking mechanism having a sidebar and a projection disposed at a mouth of a sidewall cavity. Rather, the sidebar 38 in Oliver engages only an angled surface 42 when in an unlocked position. Further, engagement of the sidebar 46 and the angled surface 42 does not act to prohibit rotation of the lock cylinder. The function of the angled surface 42, which is well known in the art, is to force the opposite end of the sidebar into slots in the pin tumblers when the tumblers have become properly aligned, in other words, to push the sidebar toward the lock center into a position of allowing rotation of the lock cylinder. This structure is in complete contrast to the present invention. The projections 188 on the side wall cavity 182 mouth are designed to pull the sidebar from the lock center further back into the locking position, thereby preventing rotation of the lock cylinder.

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is believed that claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1.

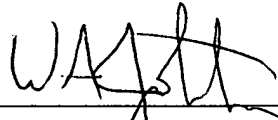
For at least the reasons discussed above, it is believed that claims 4 and 9 are also allowable. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of claim 4 and 9. Further, the remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence on allowable independent claims 1, 4 and 9.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of

this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/21/06



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